GUIDE TO THE SO11 BAHIA BRAZILIANS FILE

[The SO11 Bahia Brazilians file is concerned with the culture and inhabitants of the city of Bahia (Salvador), capital of the State of Bahia in eastern Brazil, and with the surrounding Recôncavo. The Recôncavo is the semicircle of land bordering the Baía de Todos os Santos, with the city of Bahia in its easternmost part. The Recôncavo is generally equated with the sugarcane area, but it also includes the relatively densely settled and intensively cultivated zone around the bay, and the contiguous zones of equivalent agricultural intensity. Thus, there are three distinct areas in the Recôncavo: a southern area devoted to the raising of manioc, a western section devoted to the raising of tobacco, and a northern and eastern area, given almost exclusively to large-scale sugarcane monoculture.

There are five sources in the Bahia Brazilians file, four of them in English, and one (5: Azevedo) a translation from the French. The major sources are 1: Haskins, 2: Hutchinson and 4: Pierson. 1: Haskins is an agricultural geography of the Recôncavo, based on field work in 1952-1954. It contains detailed descriptions of land use, agricultural production, and the trade of agricultural produce within the area and to overseas countries. It is the only source in the file to cover the whole of the Recôncavo. 2: Hutchinson is a sociocultural analysis of the community of Vila Recôncavo in the sugarcane area, by an anthropologist who did fieldwork in the area between 1951 and 1956. It contains a good deal of historical information on the development of the sugarcane monoculture in the area and on the relatively recent change from family-based plantations (engenhos) to corporate-owned sugar-processing factories (usinas). 4: Pierson is a classic sociological analysis of race relations and culture contact in Brazil, with

the emphasis on the city of Bahia. It contains a good historical analysis of slavery, assimilation, intermarriage and status in the society, especially as they pertain to Bahia. 3: Hutchinson is a study of race relations in Vila Recôncavo, the community studied in 2: Hutchinson, showing how African cultural influences and the particular set of patterns involving the large patriarchal family and the master-slave relations which took form on the plantations were significant factors in producing the present-day class and race relationships in the region. 5: Azevedo is an account of the racial situation in Bahian society by a well-known Brazilian sociologist who is a native of the city. Azevedo notes that evaluation of the individual is based more on personal merit and position within a particular social class than on race. This is generally a good file for comparative purposes. It contains a great deal of information on race and social status, agriculture, and history. The researcher should note the great historical depth in the file and also the contrast between city and rural life in using materials from the file. He is also recommended to go beyond the file to the historical works by Gilberto Freire, which are particularly applicable to Bahia, and to the novels of Jorge Amado, which give a good idea of the flavor of life in this region. The file was processed between 1969 and 1973.]